

The FCC's rules prohibit telephone solicitation calls to your home before 8 a.m. and after 9 p.m. Under those rules, a telephone solicitor must give his name, the name of the entity for which he is calling and a telephone number or address to contact that entity.

That's what the rules say --- telemarketing companies NEVER follow them.

Telemarketers now use the autodialer. My phone rings, I answer it, there is a tell-tale delay on the other end of the line that usually indicates a telemarketing call, but instead of hearing the voice of a pitchman, I hear a click followed by a dial tone.

In order to minimize the down time of their employees, telemarketing firms use computers to automatically generate calls at a rate of about three calls for every employee. By doing this, there is always a customer waiting on some line for a telemarketer to talk to and precious seconds are no longer wasted. But sometimes a salesman may actually be making a pitch on another line, so he won't get around to talking to you and the dialing system just hangs up. According to the FCC, you can stop all these calls by simply telling the telemarketer that you want to be placed on the company's do-not-call list. If you are called again, the company can be fined up to \$11,000 for every time it calls you. Of course, there are many problems with this rule --- if you keep getting those autodial calls, you don't know who called you and hung up the phone when you answered.

FCC GIVE ME A BREAK, DO YOUR JOB AND ELIMINATE THESE NUISANCE CALLS, WHICH ARE AN INVASION OF OUR PRIVACY!

Otherwise, the final remedy will be cancellation of local home telephone service.